DIVISION OF **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

HUMANITIES CONNECTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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This document covers a variety of queries regarding the Humanities Connections grant program. You may also wish to consult the program webinar, which can be accessed at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6570098021596206594 (after you provide your name and e-mail address). Program staff members are available to answer further questions at 202-606-8500 or humanitiesconnections@neh.gov.

I. Eligibility

May an institution submit multiple applications?

Yes, so long as the institution is prepared and committed to carrying out the projects, should more than one be funded. We strongly encourage you to discuss any plan for multiple submissions with a program officer.

I am an adjunct who teaches part-time at two different colleges. Could this grant be used to fund courses at two or more institutions?

No. This grant program supports the development of courses and related student engagement activities at one institution.

May I develop a Humanities Connections project with a colleague who teaches at another institution?

No. Please see page 2 of the guidelines: "Faculty from at least two separate departments or schools at a single institution must collaborate to devise new curricular arrangements."

II. Project Content and Design

Can you help me understand what you mean by "linked courses"? Is this a requirement?

The Humanities Connections grant program, as its name suggests, supports the development of a set of courses focused on significant humanities content that must be linked by a common topic, theme, or compelling issue or question. The linking of courses is a requirement. On the other hand, the guidelines do not specify a particular structure or audience (other than that the courses must be for undergraduates). The courses could be linked in a sequence (for example, an initial course, followed by another that builds on it for a later semester or calendar year) or could be offered across departments/schools as a cluster in the same time period. The courses could fall within a particular type of program, creating a track for majors/minors; they could also be offered more broadly.

Does the Humanities Connections grant program assume that our students will be required to take all of the "linked courses"?

Ideally, students should be able to take all of the "linked courses" to benefit from the intellectual connections. Students need not be required to take every course in the set.

Several of my colleagues in other disciplines already offer courses on a theme we would like to develop in our grant project. I would propose to create a new course in my discipline on this theme. Is this a strong basis for a Humanities Connections grant project?

Not necessarily. Humanities Connections grants support faculty collaboration across disciplines to devise an integrated set of undergraduate courses—which goes beyond individual development of separate single-discipline courses that share a theme. This integrated set of courses must include at least three that are new or substantially revised: adding one new course to several that have already been developed would not meet this requirement.

Are there examples of funded proposals from past NEH Humanities Connections competitions?

Since this program is new, we do not have any examples of successful proposals. Members of the NEH staff are available to discuss your ideas and read draft proposals. Please do not hesitate to contact us at humanitiesconnections@neh.gov or call 202-606-8500 to speak with a program officer.

III. Budget

May we use grant funds to pay for teaching costs?

No. This grant provides support for the development of the courses and for the overall implementation of the project, but not for the teaching of the courses themselves. Please see page 7 of the guidelines: "Grant funds may not be used to support replacement teachers or to pay faculty members for performing their regular duties."

May we use grant funds to support student travel abroad?

No, but grant funds may support student engagement activities (a digital project, a community experience, etc.) that intersect with international components in the linked courses.

I see that the sample budget includes institutional cost sharing. Is cost sharing required?

Cost sharing is not required. NEH will make awards of up to $100,000 in outright funds. If your total project costs exceed that amount, please indicate the other source(s) for the funds. The funds from other sources would constitute cost sharing.

IV. Application Assistance and Review

What help is available for preparing the proposal?

You are encouraged to contact a program officer (at 202-606-8500 or humanitiesconnections@neh.gov) to discuss your project ideas, and to submit draft proposals. Unfortunately, time constraints may prevent staff from reviewing draft proposals submitted after September 6, 2016.

Although staff comments and responses to draft proposals are not part of the formal review process and have no bearing on the final outcome of the proposal, previous applicants in other programs have found them helpful in strengthening their applications.

A video recording of a webinar about the Humanities Connections program is available (after you provide your name and e-mail address) at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6570098021596206594.

How will my application be reviewed?

All applications will receive peer review. Using the evaluation criteria listed in Section V of the application guidelines, teachers and scholars in the humanities will convene in panels to read and rate the applications. NEH staff will compile a slate of recommended applications based on the panelists' comments and ratings. The National Council on the Humanities will review the recommendations and provide additional insights. All advice—from the panelists, staff, and National Council—will be sent to the NEH Chairman. By law, only the Chairman is empowered to make an award. More details about NEH's review process are available here.

How long must I wait to learn the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be notified of the decision by e-mail in April 2017.

V. Submitting your Application to Grants.gov

When is the deadline for submitting the application?

Applications for NEH Humanities Connections grants must be received by Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 5, 2016. Grants.gov will date- and time-stamp your application after it is fully uploaded. Applications submitted after that date will not be accepted.

NEH suggests that you submit your application no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on the day of the deadline. Doing so will leave you time to contact the Grants.gov help desk for support, should you encounter a technical problem of some kind. The Grants.gov help desk is available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day (except on federal holidays), at 1-800-518-4726. You can also send an e-mail message to support@grants.gov.

How do I know if I have submitted my application successfully?

See the information in this PDF:
http://www.neh.gov/files/grants/what_to_expect_after_you_submit_your_application_to_grantsgov_.pdf.